

Abstract of the Disclosure

A method and apparatus suitable for determining the concavity and convexity of line and space patterns formed on a sample. A profile is formed based on a charged-particle beam scan, the profile having a peak. When one foot portion of the peak converges more gradually than the other foot portion, a portion of the sample corresponding to the one foot portion is determined to be a convex portion. Alternatively, when one foot portion of the peak converges more steeply than the other foot portion, a portion of the sample corresponding to the one foot portion is determined to be a concave portion.